

THE CVRE
OF THE
PLAGUE

BY
AN ANTIDOTE
CALLED
AURUM VITÆ.

*Being well approved to be an: asie-
late, and perfect cure thereof; as
also of contagious Agues, or
Feavers beginning either
Hot or Cold.*

The description, order, and use whereof, to-
gether with the said *Antidote*, are to be sold at the
Shop of NICHOLAS BOURNE,
Stationer, at the South Entrance of the
ROYAL EXCHANGE.

*Invented and produced by John Woodall,
Master in SURGERY.*

Published by Authority.

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To the Reader.

The Author sendeth greeting in the Lord.

SHe wing, that he having of late published some workes in Surgery, and amongst the rest, a Treatise concerning the cure of the Plague, which workes, although they are allowed and well approved of by many right worthy personages, for the matter in them contained, yet nevertheless the Author findeth, he hath by improvidence failed of his desires in one of the main points he aimed at, in the production of those workes, which was in the putting forth of the Treatise of the Plague in one and the same Volume, with the rest of his Workes, for whereas his intent was, that treatise above the rest should have bene common, and open to every person, and also to have bin at an easie rate for the poorer sort, in which case his best course had bene to have printed it by it selfe, so had it borne its owne burthen of price, but by reason that the other treatises are bound up together with it, the booke will cost ten shillings, which the poorer sort cannot buy, and they commonly

To the Reader.

have the greatest need thereof, especially in that dreadfull Disease of the Plague; wherefore, partly through solicitation of some Friends, and partly, for that the present time of Infection requireth helpe, he hath thought fit to draw out of the said Treatise, that one principall Medicine called **Aurum Vitæ**, and to publish it by it selfe, with an expression of the Vertues and uses thereof, for the present occasion, and service of any person which shall thinke good to make use thereof, or that shall for the future be disposed to be provided before hand, against a time of need, of such a Medicine, as will not decay in seven yeeres and more.

V I A L E.



A
DESCRIPTION
OF
THE CORDIAL ANTIDOTE
CALLED
AURUM VITÆ.

THis Antidote, at one onely time given, taketh away the Pestilentiall Feaver, and therby cureth the *Plague*, that the patient frequently becometh well the very next day; especially if the Medicine be taken upon the first day of the complaint; he or she observing of certain easie Rules hereafter prescribed, concerning the order of administering thereof, and it is so easie and safe a Medicine, that an Infant, although it sucke upon the Mothers breasts, may safely take it; yea, and may easily be induced to receive it into the Body: for that it is small in quantity, and is without offence in taste or smell to any: Also, it may safely be given to any Woman that

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is great with childe, whereof diverse trials have bin had with safety and comfort.

The Dose
of *Arium*
Vine.

The Dose or quantity sufficient thereof for a Man or Woman to take at any one time, is but eight graines, and by that proportion, any discreet person may gather what may be given to any younger person: *viz.* A child of two full yeeres old, may safely take two graines; and a child of foure or five yeeres old, may take three graines, or foure, and one about foureteene yeeres may take six graines, and one of eightene, nineteene, or twenty yeeres old, or more, may safely take the full of eight graines.

And note that this medicine performeth its operation only by sweat which is the truest and safest way of the entrance upon that cure of the Plague (for the most part) and also it doth it without moving the body either upwards or downward; and namely it causeth no vomits nor stools: neither is it at all nauseous or offensive to the stomach, neither any wayes causing extraordinary thirst, nor faintnesse to the patient, but on the contrary, the patient, when his sweating is over, shall manifestly feele cheerefulnesse, as being much refreshed thereby, with also an abatement of his paines, and his Feaver will be gone at the onely once taking thereof, neither shall the patient need to over-burthen himselfe with too many cloathes to force him or her to sweat: for the medicine of it selfe sufficiently performeth that duty, onely hee may bee ordered to have somewhat more to cover him, than the ordinary coverings

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rings he usually lyeth under, and the roome ought likewise to be kept warme with a fire therein, for that cold aire in time of sweating, is obnoxious and dangerous.

And further, this Medicine may bee kept seven ^{Of the} whole yeares and longer, if occasion and need be; it ^{continu-} will not decay in that time, for it being truly pre- ^{ance of} pared of gold, is thereby permanent above other Medicines, and looseth not its vertue as vegetable medicines doe: But as Gold, that excellent mineral; excelleth all other mettals, in price and vertue; even so the true prepared medicines thereof, as far exceed al other mineral medicines in their vertues, in the preserving and defending of men from Diseases, as also in curing their infirmities, when by Gods permission they seize upon the bodies of mankind.

And whereas other strong medicines commonly worke two wayes at once, namely by sweat, and also by Vomit, whereby they fiercely distract the Patient, and produce fearefull accidents, as if death it selfe were at hand, by two violent expulsions at one time, yea oftentimes by a third, viz. By purging downward: Also this most safe, and sweating medicine, performeth as much as it promisseth, pleasantly, and without rigour or nauseous offence, as well in the Plague, as also in other contagious diseases, and namely in the smal Pox, where Nature also striveth to thrust out her venomous enemy, *per poros cutis*, or by the sweat holes of the skin, and that course of curing, is of all other the safest, in a contagious Disease at the first entrance, which then consisteth rather of poysonous va-

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vapours then of putrifaction of humours, in which regard the aforesaid course is safe, for it is a fearefull thing, yea, and a desperate one (as I conceive) to purge in the beginning of a contagious disease.

To cure
Agues or
Feavers
that are
contagious.

This Medicine is also approved good to be given in the beginning of any contagious Ague or feaver, hot or cold, and for the most part, it cureth the patient at once giving, and it faileth sel-dome.

*Of the rule and order to be held in the taking of this
Antidote for the cure of the Plague.*

First the patient is to be demanded if he had any stoole that day, or the day before, and if yea, all is well for that point; if otherwise, and that you find you have time to tarry so long (else not) let the patient have onely a supposito-ry that may move him once, and when he hath had one stoole thereby, proceed without any further delay to the administering of the Antidote; for delays are dangerous in that fierce disease, and whether the patient at that instant be found sweating, burning, quaking, raving, or in any other distemper give it in, and the party that taketh it, sought to be in his warme bed fitted with sufficient coverings before he takes this Medicine in, then let him take it, either mixed with some cordiall thing, if he please, as a little Mithridate, or give it mixed with the pap of an Apple, which will doe as well, and so it is easiest taken in by infants (as I suppose) for it needs no addition at all to adde vertue to it, onely the addition chiefly serves to carry or convey the medicine without

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without waſting into the ſtomach, for that it is a powder ſmall in quantity, and ſubject to waſte.

Alſo the party that is to take it, muſt have before hand an ordinary poſſet of Ale and milke to the quantity of a quart very warme, which when he hath taken his medicine, ſhortly after let him drink a reaſonable full draught of the ſaid poſſet well warmed, and then lying on the one ſide, which ſide the patient pleaſe, let him be warme covered, head, face and all, leaving full breathing ſcope, and ſo in Gods name let him lye ſtill and ſweat gently, if he can beare it for three or foure houres were beſt, & ever as he thirſteth, let him freely take warme poſſet drink, which were beſt to be given him in ſome cruet or ſpout-pot, if ſuch were at hand, that he take no ayre by raiſing himſelfe up in drinking. And when he hath performed his due ſweating, let him be wiped dry and ſhifted, and then give the patient ſome warme broth. And further by divers experiences the Author hath found, that a patient ſo healed (ſhifting his cloaths) infecteth not another, although he goe abroad the next day, for by that ſtrong ſweating the venome of the diſeaſe is wholly evaporated and gon, ſo as the next day he may by Gods mercy ſafely goe abroad, but for the day of his ſweating let him keepe within, and give him food competent in a ſparing quantity, ſuch as is of a light digeſtion, and deny him not drinke, ſo that it be ſomewhat warme at the fire only for that day.

Thus much for thoſe which take the medicine within 24 houres of the firſt complaint. Item unto ſuch as the diſeaſe hath taken greater hold of, namely that before the receite of the aforeſaid

Necessaries to be provided before the taking.

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Antidote, the patient have outward tumours, swellings or Soares, as Botches, Carbuncles, or blaines, not yet broken nor ripe, if hee take the medicine as aforesaid, and sweat well upon it, the venome of the soares as is said, shall, through Gods Mercy, be so evaporated by his sweating, that the swellings shall decline of themselves, and not at all come forward, and if any after do break, as being formerly suppurated, or ripe before the medicine tooke place, they also shall, as ordinary boyles, easily and quickly heale with every meane medicine.

And notwithstanding generally, once sweating healeth the Patient, yet neverthelesse if occasion bee, hee may safely take a second Dose, or proportion, yea, and a third without danger; as diverse have done, so that he may be the more confident of perfect health; neverthelesse if he find his desire by the first, let him not take a second, and if by a second, let him not take a third, for sweating medicines, too often taken, are obnoxious to a disjected weeke patient.

The Vertue of the precedent Antidote, in the cure of the small Pox.

THe Disease of the small Pox, hath great affinity with that most fearefull Disease of the *Plague*, being also contagious and deadly often times, and the cure thereof I have experienced to be by the same way, as the cure of the *Plague*, only the cure of the small Pox succeeds best, if it be begun before that they doe manifest themselves, and namely, in the first day of the Feaver, or soon after, for that disease hath ever a forerunning hot feaver,
or

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or Ague, for a messenger, wherefore it were not amisse for any that hath young children, especially in times that are contagious and infectious, to be prepared with remedies at hand, to fit such an unwelcome guest, considering the medicine will keep its Vertue for more then seven yeeres.

Moreover, for the manner of the sweating in the small Pox, let it bee very wearily and gently, and with no more cloathes then will keepe the patients sweating, and defend them from taking cold, and deny not them warm posset-drinke in the time of their sweating.

Also, when any person is desirous to take the benefit of the aforesaid medicine, having an Ague, or Feaver, with *paroxismes* or fits, let him not take the medicine in the time of the fit, but one full houre as is said, before the fit, or rather more, but if the Feaver be continuall, as often in that fierce disease of the Plague it is, give it at any time in manner aforesaid; for if he take it, and his burning change into sweating, which the medicine usually produceth, the feare of Death in the Patient is halfe over.

And further of a truth, the Author can affirme that he hath cured some by the heretofore mentioned Antidote, that had the Pestilencies, or spots of the Plague, vulgarly called Gods tokens, upon them, and they are yet living witnesses thereof; for which, and all other his exceeding favours in that fearefull disease, the Almighty God alone be glorified: And so the Author briefly concludeth with a Copy of a certificate concerning the Vertue of the before mentioned Antidote, *Aurum Vita*, referring

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ring the Reader for further attestation to the Authors Booke called the *Surgeons Mate*, or *Militarie* and *domestike Surgerie*.

The Copy of a Certificate, concerning the Vertue of the precedent Antidote; called *Aurum Vita*, from the Justices, Ministers, and other the Officers of the Parish of *S. Margaret Westminster*, as it was by them presented to the Right Honourable, *Henry, Earle of Manchester*, Lord Privy Seal, &c. which by his Lordship was presented to the rest of his Majesties most Honourable Privy Counsell.

WEE the Inhabitants of Saint *Margarets* in Westminster whose names are here under written, doe most humbly certifie your Lordships, and that upon our owne knowledge, that in this time of visitation of the Plague, Feavers, Agues, and other diseases, which have beene very grievous and great afflictions unto us: It pleased Almighty God by the hands of one *John Woodall* Chirurgeon of the East India Company, and of his Majesties Hospitall of Saint *Bartholomewes* in London, a learned, judicall, and expert man, which said *John Woodall* about five weekes before Michaelmas last, delivered unto some of us, who were Officers in this said Parish, an Antidote composed in Pills, which hee had made us, with directions how they should be administred to such as had the Plague, Feavers, Agues, or any such violent diseases, that then remained among us; which said Pills have beene employed very carefully, according
to

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to his said directions, and administred to three-score severall persons, some of this new Feaver, some of the small Pox, some Agues, and some other diseases, but most, to them that were visited with the Plague, which had risings, Soares, Carbuncles, Blaines, and were certainly knowne to have that fearefull disease, all which persons recovered, and not one of all them that have taken the said Pills, dyed, thanks be given to Almighty God: neither can we doe lesse than publish the great skill, judgement, and charity of the said *John VVoodall*, by whose industry and care this Antidote hath wrought so good effect, and did bestow them freely, without one penny recompence for the same.

*Westminster the 6 of
October. 1638.*

Per. Heywood, Justice.

Rob. White, sub-Curate.

{ Thomas Mar.

{ Richard Proctor.

{ Church-Wardens.

William Hawkins.

Copia vera

Tho. Kirke.

Edward Martin.

And for Satisfaction of such Persons, as being in health, desire preservatives, the Author observing, that although his *Antidote*, be granted to be a cure for the diseased of the *Plague* yet nevertheles thereby it giveth not those that are well, satisfaction concerning their desires, which are rather for the present, to be furnished with some good preservative Medicine, such as by art, through Gods permission, may preserve them in health from that dread-

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dreadfull disease, that it seaze not upon them unawares; Wherefore to satisfie such, he hath prepared two preservative helpes, the one being a powder to be inwardly taken, fasting each morning, the quantity of eight graines, either in Beere, Ale, or wine; Or to children, if it be mixed with butter, and spread upon their bread, or given them in milke, or any way else that they will be induced to take it in, it sufficeth; And that they fast two houres after it, they may relie upon it, as on a good preservative, well approved of: And further, if any man, woman, or child, should accidentally or willingly take treble the quantity prescribed, they may safely doe it without any danger at all: Yet by way of a preservative as is said to prevent the comming of the disease, the Author holdeth the aforesaid quantity of eight graines is sufficient.

The second preservative intended for correction of the Ayre, is to be carried in a box, about the person of any, to make use of it at their wils, that they may often smell thereto, and thence draw in a preservative Ayre to defend them from the danger of noysome vapours, which commonly the *Plague* entred by, as sent from the Almighty, who alone defendeth from, sendeth to, and of his mercifull providence cureth the *Plague*; Vnto whom be ascribed all honour, and glory *Amen*.



These 2 last recited Medicines, are to be sold with the Antidote, ready prepared for use, 'By Nicholas Bourn, as aforesaid.

